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NEW YORK TIMES
24 MARCH 1981

Around the World

London Paper Says Official Was a Spy for Soviet

LONDON, March 23 (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has started an investigation into a newspaper report that a former chief of counterintelligence was suspected of being a Soviet agent, Government sources said today.

In an article today, the London Daily Mail alleged that Sir Roger Hollis, director general of the counterintelligence service from 1956 to 1965, was believed to be a Soviet agent. Mr. Hollis died in 1973; his family has denied the charges. The Government declined official comment.

The sources said Mrs. Thatcher had ordered the inquiry "at the highest level" and that she would make a full statement in the House of Commons "at the earliest possible moment," probably Thursday.

Sakharov Says Police Stole Some of Its Personal Papers

MOSCOW, March 23 (AP) — Andrei D. Sakharov, the Soviet physicist, said in a statement distributed today that the K.G.B., the security police, had taken a briefcase containing letters, a personal diary, scientific papers and notes for an autobiography in his place of exile in Gorky.

"The theft shows that the K.G.B. is striving to deprive me of memory, thought and the possibility of any intellectual life, even in isolation," the statement said.

Dr. Sakharov's wife, Yelena Bonner, who made the statement available, said the briefcase had been taken from a dentist's office after the physicist had been asked to leave it in the waiting room.